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## SECOND INTERNATIONAL EUGENICS CONGRESS.

To Be Held In New York City, September 22-28, 1921.

The word "eugenics" was first used by Francis Galton in 1883 in his "Inquiries into the Human Faculty," and has been defined by him as "the study of agencies under social control that may improve or impair the racial qualities of future generations, either physically or mentally." As an outcome of an interest which had developed in the subject, largely through Galton's writings and addresses, the First International Eugenics Congress was held in London in August, 1912, under the auspices of the Eugenics Education Society and the presidency of Maj. Leonard Darwin.

Since the first congress the World War has come and gone and, like all wars, destructive of the best manhood, it has depleted the finest racial stocks of more than one country. It has left the biologic, as well as the economic and sociologic, conditions of the world greatly disturbed. The Second International Eugenics Congress, which is to be held in New York City September 22-28 of this year, is therefore meeting at a time of exceptional interest.

The second congress is to be a conference on the results of research in questions of race improvement. While the problems of education and environment are immediate and the work of repair and reconstruction demand such close attention that little time and money will be available for years to come for the expansion of euthe-nical efforts in the matter of social betterment, attention has been focused afresh on the essential value of eugenically improved races.

According to the preliminary announcement of the secretary general of the congress, the following matters are to be presented at the meeting in September:

I. In the first section of the congress will be presented, on the one hand, the results of research in the domain of pure genetics in animals and plants and, on the other, studies in human heredity. The application to man of the laws of heredity and the physiology of reproduction as worked out on some of the lower animals will also be presented.

II. The second section will consider factors which influence the human family, and their control; the relation of fecundity of different strains and families and the question of social and legal control of such fecundity; also the differential mortality of the eugenically superior and inferior stocks and the influence upon such mortality of special factors, such as war and epidemic and endemic diseases. In this connection will be brought forward facts of improved and of unimproved families and of the persistence, generation after generation, of the best as well as the worst characteristics.

III. The third section will concern itself with the topic of human racial differences, with the sharp distinction between racial characteristics and the unnatural associations often created by political and

national boundaries. In this connection will be considered the facts of the migrations of races, the influence of racial characteristics on human history, the teachings of the past with bearings on the policies of the future. In this section will be presented the results of researches upon racial mixtures in relation to human history. Also the topics of racial differences in disease and psychology will be taken up. The history of race migrations and their influence on the fate of nations, especially modern migration, will be considered.

IV. The fourth section will discuss eugenics in relation to the State, to society, and to education. It will include studies on certain practical applications of eugenic research and on the value of such findings to morals, to education, to history, and to the various social problems and movements of the day. In this section will be considered the bearing of genetical discoveries upon the question of human differences and upon the desirability of adjusting the educational program to such differences. Here will be considered the importance of family history studies for the better understanding and treatment of various types of hospital cases and those requiring custodial care.

It will be the design of the congress to advocate no revolutionary changes, but to discuss the whole subject of pure and applied eugenics fairly and temperately in such a manner as will make clear the beneficent effects of the application of the eugenic standards among men and women.

In each section the congress will present carefully worked-out facts and the immediate and practical conclusions to which they lead. Special stress will be laid on the results of experimental and statistical research. The importance of the intellectual, sociological, and economic aspects will, of course, be pointed out in the section devoted to these various fields.

In the appropriate sections will be brought out, under different aspects, the principle of the continuity of hereditary characteristics through the continuity of the germ plasm, and the vital importance of influencing, if possible, the future of the race through increasing our knowledge of the processes of heredity in man directly, as well as indirectly, through studies of heredity in other forms of life.

Inquiries concerning all matters relative to the congress should be addressed to Dr. C. C. Little, secretary general, American Museum of Natural History, Seventy-seventh Street and Central Park West, New York City, N. Y.

#### DEATHS DURING WEEK ENDED JAN. 29, 1921.

*Summary of information received by telegraph from industrial insurance companies for week ended Jan. 29, 1921. (From the "Weekly Health Index," Feb. 1, 1921, issued by the Bureau of the Census, Department of Commerce.)*

Policies in force.....	45,532,240
Number of death claims.....	8,886
Death claims per 1,000 policies in force, annual rate.....	10.2